



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2011

No. 181

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, source of all life, may Your power be felt today in the Senate. Strengthen our Senators with Your might, infusing them with faith to look beyond today's challenges with confidence that You are still in control. Impart them with knowledge that will enable them to find creative solutions to the problems that beset us. Keep Your hand upon all the citizens of this great land, protecting them from evil as You guide them along the pathway of life. Help us to remember that we should be one in purpose, seeking the best for our Republic.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 29, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A.

COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense Authorization Act.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to the Defense authorization bill is 2:30 p.m. today.

We will continue to work through the amendments. The managers of this bill, Senator LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN, are certainly experienced with this bill and the legislative processes, and they are going to do their best to move through this process as quickly as possible. We will notify Members when there are votes scheduled. We should be able to have a few votes today—at least I would hope so.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1917

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told S. 1917 is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1917) to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUTS

Mr. REID. The Senate Democrats' No. 1 priority of this Congress is to pass commonsense legislation; for example, tax cuts and infrastructure investments, all these ideas we have to put Americans back to work and revive our economy. The Republicans in the House, on the other hand, are focused on gutting the safeguards to keep our air clean, make workplaces safe, and check the greed of big Wall Street firms.

Never mind that wholesale destruction of measures which save millions of lives and trillions of dollars each year have no chance of passing. Never mind that nonpartisan experts and economists on both sides of the aisle say the so-called jobs agenda will not create a single job. House Republicans have complained we have not taken up and passed these policies, which would risk American lives while doing nothing to improve our economy. They insist we should waste weeks or months on legislation that is both dangerous and proven to fail.

But the Senate has too much work to do on legislation that would create jobs without risking American lives to waste time on these ineffectual, purely partisan measures. Our jobs agenda was designed to create jobs, not headlines.

In any case, the Senate has passed its own share of legislation—40 pieces, in fact—that have yet to be taken up by the House Republican leaders. The Senate has passed legislation that would

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S7937